

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

Defibrillation Program Fact Sheet

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program was mandated by statute secondary to increases of deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest. This program has remained unfunded since its implementation. Therefore, a reduction of funding would result in zero impact. However, an increase in funding would result in the successful implementation of the activity and the Bureau of EMS would promulgate all necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of RS 40:1236.

Objective

To encourage greater acquisition, deployment and use of automated external defibrillators in communities throughout the state; and formulate all necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of RS 40:1236 to ensure public health and safety.

Performance Indicators

- The Bureau of EMS will create a database to track all AED's in the State of Louisiana.
- The Bureau of EMS will promulgate rules to ensure that any possessor of an AED is following all manufacturer and state guidelines regarding possession and use.
- The Bureau of EMS will create a database to measure AED usage and the reduction of deaths resulting from sudden cardiac arrest.

Narrative

There is a concern for public safety over the number of people who die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. It is believed that an increase in public access to defibrillation would save more lives. In 2004, Act 885 increased the responsibility, on physical fitness facilities and institutions of higher education that compete in intercollegiate sports, to possess an AED. The purpose of this law is to increase access to early defibrillation by citizen rescuers and first responders. Physical fitness facilities with 50 members or more and any institution of higher education that competes in intercollegiate athletics across Louisiana shall have an AED on its premises and its employees will be trained in CPR and AED use. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will establish a full time equivalent position to 1) educate facilities defined in statute, and identify funding sources for these facilities to purchase AED's, 2) develop rules, policies, procedures for compliance, and penalties for violations, 3) prepare informational packets, disseminate to those entities impacted by the legislation, 4) establish inspection procedures, and apply penalties as needed under existing or future applicable law. In doing so, the Bureau of EMS will establish a fee structure with the appropriate budget authority for expenditures and revenue.

The Bureau of EMS is tasked with ensuring compliance with RS 40:1236.13. Furthermore, the Bureau of EMS shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations and provide for compliance, enforcement, and penalties.

Better Health

The purpose of this law is to increase access to early defibrillation by citizen rescuers and first responders. Furthermore, there are greater than 1000 organizations in the state in possession of an AED. The State must enforce the oversight component of this program to ensure public health and safety. Equipment that is not properly maintained, or used by an untrained person may result in increased morbidity and mortality.

The Bureau of EMS is actively working with the American Heart Association to remain current with the latest statistical data related to cardiac arrest and AED use. With the implementation of this activity, the Bureau of EMS will have the ability to regulate AED use and collect data that is beneficial to the fight against deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest.